



PRESS NOTICE

BILL NETTLES UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

*1441 Main Street, Suite 500 * Columbia, SC 29201 * (803) 929-3000*

January 25, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON: BETH DRAKE
First Assistant U.S. Attorney
Beth.Drake@usdoj.gov
(803) 929-3000

ANDERSON MAN RECEIVES 2 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR CHILD PORN

Columbia, South Carolina---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Nicholas Trace Owen, age 21, of Anderson, South Carolina, was sentenced today in federal court in Greenville, South Carolina, for possession of child pornography, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A. Senior United States District Judge Henry M. Herlong, Jr. of Greenville sentenced Owen to 24 months imprisonment.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that on March 14, 2011, law enforcement conducted an on-line investigation using a Peer to Peer file sharing program. Officers located a computer sharing 3 files that were associated with child pornography. A direct connection with the computer was made and the three video files were downloaded. All three videos contained children

under the age of 18 engaged in sex acts. After tracing the computer to Owen's residence, a federal search warrant was obtained.

The search warrant was executed on April 5, 2011. Agents seized Owen's computer and conducted a forensic examination. The exam revealed multiple videos and images containing child pornography.

The case was investigated by agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Investigations. Assistant United States Attorney Bill Watkins of the Greenville office handled the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

#####